



**Minutes of the  
ALAMEDA FREE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING  
June 10, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Alameda Free Library Board was called to order at 6:07 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Ruth Belikove, President  
Mike Hartigan, Vice President  
Karen Butter, Board Member  
Gail Wetzork, Board Member

Absent: Alan Mitchell, Board Member

Staff: Jane Chisaki, Library Director  
Marsha Merrick, Recording Secretary

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

An asterisk indicates items so accepted or approved on the Consent Calendar.

- A. \*Report from the Library Director Highlighting Activities for the Month of June 2009. Accepted.
- B. \*Draft Minutes of the Regular Library Board Meeting of May 13, 2009. Approved.
- C. \*Library Services Report for the Month of April 2009. Accepted.
- D. \*Financial Report Reflecting FY09 Expenditures by Fund for May 2009. Accepted.
- E. \*Bills for Ratification for the Month of May 2009. Approved.

Member Butter asked Director Chisaki to talk about the solar panel project planned for the Main Library with part of the City's federal stimulus money. Out of the \$640,600 total package, the solar panel project would use an estimated \$414,000. Once these panels are installed and functioning, the Library should realize a 12% savings on electric costs from what we currently pay.

President Belikove asked for a motion to accept the Consent Calendar as presented. Vice President Hartigan so moved; Member Butter seconded the motion which carried by a 4-0 vote.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA (Public Comment)**

None.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Neighborhood Library Improvement Project (G. Wetzork)

Director Chisaki reported that the NLIP team had not met since the last Library Board meeting, and the only new thing to bring up is that Noll & Tam has asked for an increase in their fees due to the larger scope of work. They are asking for a total of about \$70,000 more, so the Public Works Project Manager is taking a closer look at the figures to ensure they are reasonable. Chisaki will get more details and bring them to the next Board meeting.

Member Butter asked about the branch art part of the project. Director Chisaki has attempted to contact the art consultant (Regina Almaguer) used previously and is waiting for a response. Staff liaison to the art exhibit committee, David Hall, has suggested that Ruth Belikove and Sue Baizerman from the committee be part of the branch art project; Arta Benzi-Youssef, Branch Supervisor, will be the chair.

### NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolutions of Appreciation for Library Board Service for R. Belikove and A. Mitchell (J. Chisaki)

Director Chisaki read President Belikove and Member Mitchell's resolutions of appreciation for their service on the Board. Unfortunately, Member Mitchell was absent due to health issues, however, Belikove made a short farewell speech to the Board.

B. Art Exhibit Committee (R. Belikove)

President Belikove mentioned the Erik Larson comic book exhibit that had been at the Library. There was a drawing demonstration and reception for the artist that about 25 people attended. The current exhibit by the Alameda Multi-Cultural Center is mounted on the second floor and in the Community Meeting Rooms; their art reception had just been held the previous week.

C. Alameda Free Library Foundation (A. Mitchell)

The Foundation hosted Chamber Mixer was in progress in the downstairs Community Rooms during the Board Meeting and most of the Board had visited the event prior to coming upstairs. In Director Chisaki's absence, Supervising Librarian David Hall will speak on behalf of the Library. The Foundation will be hosting Walter Mayes (aka Walter the Giant Storyteller) in December; teachers and parents will be encouraged to come, and Books, Inc. will be on hand. Walter's program will be centered on recommending good books for young people.

D. Friends of the Alameda Free Library (M. Lambert)

Marc Lambert reported that the Friends are now off for the summer, so their next meeting will be August 17. The newsletter had come out the previous week via e-mail.

E. Patron suggestions/comments (Speak-Outs) and Library Director's response.

A request to purchase Rosetta Stone was made. The Library can't afford to subscribe to their database. It would cost \$1,595 for one language, and there are no special price breaks for libraries. A request for the DVD "The Back Yardigans" was made – it will be purchased, but is not available yet.

LIBRARY BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Vice President Hartigan had a question on the number of computers that seem to be out of order. He had been trying to do a catalog search about a week prior, and ended up going to a number of different computers before he could find one that was working. Director Chisaki indicated that there had been some problems on both the public and staff sides with the computers going up and down for a couple of weeks. It had been discovered that something was plugged in wrong, but once that was corrected, the issue resolved itself. Chisaki will do a random check once a month of all the computers to find out how many are down, and report that back to the Board. A secondary issue is the slowness of the computers that are working. Once Hartigan finally found a computer he could use, it was very slow to respond.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

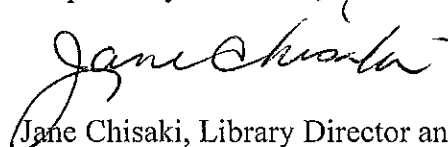
Director Chisaki announced that the Library has finally received the silver LEED certification plaque from the US Green Building Council. It will be mounted on the first floor on the wood paneling next to the lobby bulletin board. The official unveiling ceremony will be held in July.

With the Board losing two members, Chisaki encouraged everyone to be on the lookout for potential new members as there are no current applications on file in the City Clerk's Office. Because the Board will be left with just three members, and one member has already indicated they will be on vacation during the August meeting, a discussion will be held at the July meeting about the possibility of going dark in August.

ADJOURNMENT

President Belikove asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m. Board Member Butter so moved; Vice President Hartigan seconded the motion which carried by a 4-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Jane Chisaki, Library Director and  
Secretary to the Alameda Free Library Board